

# MEDINA CITY,

## The Garden Spot of Southwest Texas.

Is situated on the North bank and at the forks of the Medina river, in Bandera County, 60 miles northwest of San Antonio, near the geographical center of the county. It is 24 miles south from Kerrville, in Kerr county, the terminus of the Aransas Pass railroad. The population of Medina City is about 200. It has four stores, one drug store, one blacksmith shop, two hotels and good mill and gin, three church buildings, one fine school building and a canning factory. The nearest railroad station is Ganahl on the Aransas Pass Railroad, in Kerr County, which is 20 miles away. Medina City gets a daily mail. Any person wishing to visit Medina City can arrive here the same day they leave San Antonio. The train leaves the S. A. P. depot at San Antonio for Kerrville at 8:30 a. m. and arrives at Ganahl at 11:05 a. m. where it meets our mail hack which returns to Medina City the same evening. The Medina river heads 30 miles West in a gorge of mountains covered mostly by timber and brush. In these mountains there is considerable game such as deer and turkey and honey bees. Most of the State land in this county lies in these mountains and is worth very little. A few miles below the mountains get to be mere hills mostly timbered, some open and some mixed, all accessible to stock and furnish fine winter range. The timber on the hills and uplands here is post oak, spotted oak black jack and live oak. The valleys at and near the head of the river are narrow and covered with timber, down here they are wide and mostly prairie and contain from 25 to 500 acres. The river here is 20 to 30 feet wide, very clear, rock or gravel bottom, no mud. No swamps or dense bottoms, the banks are level and flat and lined with a skirt of cypress, walnut, sycamore and pecan timber. The soil in these valleys is a dark sandy loam, the table land is of a chocolate, all on red clay subsoil. It cultivates easy and is very productive and is especially adapted to fruit and truck. All the valleys on the river and tributaries has the proper lay for irrigation being almost on a water level. We get the best of drinking water at a depth of 25 to 35 feet, and good flows of artesian water at from 200 to 300 feet. There are several flowing wells in and around Medina City which are being used to irrigate truck. The valleys along the river can be irrigated from the river with a lift of from 12 to 20 feet. The river abounds with fish. We sometimes catch catfish three feet long. The climate here is ideal, neither too cold in winter nor too hot in summer for comfort. The winters are dry and short. We seldom have frost before November, and we begin planting in February. The air here is free from malaria and, although we sometimes have chills here, the chill is not a native of this country. Cyclones, sandstorms and high winds are unknown in the experience of the earliest settlers here, 50 years. Like all of Southwest Texas this country is subject to summer droughts, but we overcome this by early planting. The up-to-date farmer who plows his land in the winter and plants early never fails to make an average crop of from 20 to 40 bushels of corn, 30 to 50 bushels of oats, 12 to 15 bushels of wheat and from 1-3 to 1-2 bale of cotton to the acre. The boll weevil has been here for five years but has done but little damage. Our gin put up during 1904, 1905 and 1903 3775 bales of cotton, an average of 925 bales per year. Stock of all kinds winter well on the range. We feed nothing except work stock and milk cows. There is some free range here but most of the range is fenced. This county has local option and society is fairly good. We have a graded school here at Medina City and public schools in every neighborhood in the county. No colored races here. The population is strictly American. The Medina river runs through the county from West to East. All its tributaries being supported by pure spring water makes Bandera one of the best watered counties in the State. Wood, water and grass is plentiful. There is neither prickly pear nor mesquite brush here. There are no wolves here, sheep and other stock can be successfully raised without herding. There are some insects and snakes, cut worms, mosquitoes, ticks, etc., but their name is not legion. There is nothing of the kind known here as a pest. The most pressing need here is men with sufficient capital to develop the natural resources of the country by irrigation and stock-raising. When this is done this country will be equal to the best of California. The price of land here is governed by the location and quality. Fenced land back in the hills away from the river with plenty of timber, water and grass sells for \$3 to \$4 per acre. Land on the river which will embrace both farm and grass land is worth \$8 to \$10 per acre, and the best improved farms on the river can be bought for from \$12 to \$20 per acre. All kinds of land is rising in value, many people are seeking homes here on account of the health and climate.



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